



Serving the Cities of Belle Glade, Canal Point, Pahokee and South Bay

# The Sun

50c

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Western Palm Beach County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1923

Volume 75 / Number 8

## News Briefs

### Safety Patrol at GDS having yard sale

The Safety Patrol at Glades Day School is sponsoring a yard sale on Saturday, March 14, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Latin Grocery, 224 S.E. 3rd Street, Belle Glade.

Proceeds from the sale will be used for safety patrol students to go on the annual Washington D.C. trip.

### Elementary PTA to have monthly meeting

The Belle Glade Elementary School Parent Teacher Association will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 6:15 p.m. in the Media Center. All parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Child care will be provided. Door prizes will be given and refreshments will be served.

### Community invited to help in gleaning 1998

The community is invited to participate in Gleaning 1998. Over one million pounds of produce has been donated for harvesting in the Glades and helpers are needed to help gather the produce for the needy. Last year, 150 volunteers picked 44,000 pounds of fresh corn in four hours.

The gleaning will be Saturday, April 18 from 8 a.m. to noon, followed by a corn roast on the lake.

Families, churches, synagogues, neighbors, coworkers and friends (10 years old and older) are needed to harvest corn in Belle Glade. Your help will mean fresh vegetables for hungry people in South Florida.

For more information, questions or to sign up, please call (305) 833-9861, ext. 125.

### American Red Cross Country Music Festival

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the American Red Cross will host a Country Music Festival starring Nashville recording artists Bart Roy and John Hornsby and also featuring Jake Murphy, Phil Eddings and the Redwings on Saturday, March 28. The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the Clewiston Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

For more information, contact the West County branch of the Red Cross at 992-9703. Proceeds will benefit the Western Palm Beach County and the Hendry County Service Centers.

### GDS Golf Tournament

The Ninth Annual Glades Day School Golf Tournament

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## Lake Level

18.24 feet above sea level  
March 11, 1998

## Everglades Regional may close today if district & board can't reach agreement

By Brenda Bunting  
Editor

The board of Everglades Memorial Hospital has relinquished control of Everglades Regional Medical Center to the Palm Beach County Health Care District, effective at noon, Wednesday. The move leaves 320 employees at the hospital worrying if the hospital will close or if the health care district will take over and keep the facility open.

"The board has come to the difficult decision that the best service we can render to our community's health and welfare is to turn the hospital over to the Palm Beach County Health Care Special Taxing District," Wynn Jones, chairman of the board at EMH, told employees in a letter last week.

At 10 a.m. Wednesday morning, March 11, Health Care District's CEO, Cecil Bennett said he had not heard from the

board at Everglades and if, by noon, the deadline to sign an agreement passes, "The Health Care District will provide for the orderly transfer of patients to other facilities," said Mr. Bennett.

"That board has in front of them the future of the hospital," said Mr. Bennett, who added that the hospital will close if an agreement is not reached. "We will have no choice," he said.

Board members for Everglades Memorial Hospital, Inc. the not-for-profit community service corporation that has managed Everglades Regional Medical Center since 1986, have said they could not sign an agreement that will leave them responsible for the debts owed by the hospital.

In a press release from the hospital board last week, Mr. Jones said, "The lack of a county tax subsidy to offset the cost

See Hospital closure, Page 7

## Belle Glade juvenile charged with grand theft

After receiving a tip from a concerned citizen about a juvenile keeping a stolen firearm in his bedroom without his parent's knowledge, Sgt. Matthew Sweet responded this week, to investigate the complaint.

In the bedroom of juvenile, Kim Martinez (14), Sgt. Sweet found a 9mm Smith and Wesson Semi-Automatic handgun hidden next to Martinez's bed. An investigation showed that the handgun was stolen from Jorge Vergel of Belle Glade, during an auto burglary. Also located in Martinez's bedroom was a 25-inch Magnavox color television that was stolen from Gove Elementary School during a burglary on Feb. 8.

Kim Martinez was booked at the Belle Glade Police Department on the charges of Grand Theft Firearm and Grand Theft and turned over to the Palm Beach County Juvenile Detention Facility in West Palm Beach.

## Elementary school tries bilingual approach

By Katrina Elksen  
Contributing Editor

They call it "the list." Administrators, teachers and students are acutely aware of their school's status on the Florida Commissioner of Education's Critical Schools List.

They are embarrassed by the stigma of being on the list. They are working hard to get their schools off the list and keep them off.

Over the next six weeks, this series in The Sun will look at some of the reasons why Glades area children have scored so poorly on reading, writing and math tests in the past. We'll look at some of the changes schools have made, and at the progress they have seen from these

changes.

We'll also look at ways the Palm Beach County School District, under pressure from the State Department of Education,

is now helping the Glades schools get back on track. The elementary schools in the Glades have taken a "back to basics" approach, stressing the importance of reading, writing and math skills.

School officials say there are no easy answers, no quick fixes. It will take time to get the students up to national grade level in the basic

skills. But they are determined to make sure the students will succeed.

In 1995, Gove Elementary School in Belle Glade was on Commissioner

Frank Brogan's list of critical schools, with less than one-third of the students scoring the state average on the tests used to determine the very worst of the state's schools. Over the past three years, things have been changing at Gove magnet school. Test scores indicate

the changes are working. "We encourage the teachers to work together. In the past, teaching has been

a very private act," said Gove Elementary Principal Margarita Pinks.

"We meet before the year begins in an academic retreat for two weeks and we plan our year. We've done it for three years. It's voluntary. We use federal funding to pay the teachers a stipend for attending," she explained.

"We look at the past school year, what worked and what didn't."

"Every nine weeks, we get substitutes for our teachers and plan the next nine weeks," Mrs. Pinks said.

"Once a week, we ask teachers to meet after school and talk shop, academic conversations."

The school's reading program takes a multi-sensory approach. Kindergarten students are also helped by a computer

See Gove Elementary, Page 11



CONGRATULATIONS...Israel "Boo" Baez, a junior at Glades Day School, accepts a first place prize of \$75 from Carl Seibert (R), a member of the Belle Glade Elks Lodge, for his winning essay on Americanism. Baez's essay has been submitted for district judging, and then possibly, on to state competition. "I thought about my dad coming over from Cuba," said Baez. "And when I asked him about the differences between the U.S. and Cuba, I got to thinking about how important freedom is, so I wrote about what patriotism meant to me." Also pictured on the left is Glades Day School Headmaster Mandy Perez. Photo courtesy of Karen Hansford

## Glades Health Survey Board to conduct survey in the Glades

Jennie M. Sears  
Staff Reporter

The Glades Health Survey is a household survey of approximately 800 randomly selected residents of the Glades area. The four field staff for the survey are people whose native languages are English, Spanish and Creole. All printed materials will be in the three languages. This survey will be conducted by the Glades Health Survey Board during 1998-99.

A public meeting was held at

City Hall to give information to residents.

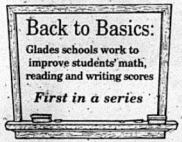
The survey is being administered to determine why tuberculosis (TB), acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), syphilis and other diseases that continue to occur in the Glades. Since 1985, active TB has increased in many communities across the United States. The reasons for this increase are not well understood. The Glades Health Survey is being conducted to estimate the frequency of the spread of TB in

order to find a prevention for the spread of this disease.

The Glades area was selected for this survey because of the proportion of residents with TB plus the number of new cases each year are high. Also, because the area is separated from other communities by agricultural fields and Lake Okeechobee, the survey will be easier to design and the results will be easier to interpret.

Tuberculosis is caused by a bacteria that is spread through

Health Survey, Page 7



Boca Pops Symphony Orchestra visited Gove Elementary students during their music hour with Mr. Jose Fred, Music teacher at Gove. The orchestra showed the students how different brass instruments and violin's sound and gave history about each instrument. The student have been learning about the instruments in Mr. Fred's class.

SUNPHOTO by Jennie M. Sears

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## News Briefs

### Continued from Page 1

Day School Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, March 21 at the Belle Glade Golf Course. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and tee-off time is 9 a.m. The game is a scramble format.

Advance sign up is required so those interested should call the golf course office at 996-6605 to register.

### "Low Country Boil" to be part of I Love Pahokee Day

A "Low Country Boil" will be part of this year's "I Love Pahokee" celebration on March 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the lakeside in Pahokee.

The event will feature cooked shrimp, vegetables and tea for a cost of \$10 or a fish fry including cole slaw, hushpuppies and tea for \$6. There will be multi-cultural entertainment. A limited number of meals will be available.

Call the Pahokee Chamber of Commerce at 924-5579 for additional information or Pahokee Main Street, 924-6332.

### Young ladies offered college tours

The Glades Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. is sponsoring a tour of southern colleges, April 5-10. The tour will cover several states. Any young lady between the ages of 14-18 who would be interested in going may contact Gwendolyn Johnson at 561-687-0958 or Mary Rainey at 996-9592 for more information and details.

### Elks Lodge sponsoring dinner and dance

The Belle Glade Elks Lodge is sponsoring a dinner and dance on Saturday, March 14, in conjunction with the annual "Big Drawing."

Barbecued dinners are \$6 and tickets for the dance are \$5 per person. The dance begins at 9 p.m. and John Hornsby and the Buckshots

will be performing.

For tickets or additional information call 996-3035 or 996-1716.

### Spring Fair set

Good Shepherd Church of God, 1800 Bacom Point Road, Pahokee, will be hosting a Spring Fair, March 12-14. On March 12 and 13 the fair will be from 5 to 10 p.m. and on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The fair will feature rides, games, food, a gospel sing, bake sale, kids' corner, paint ball, laser tag and other activities. For more information call 924-9578.

### Gospel Explosion

#### added to Afro Arts Fest

The first Gospel Explosion will be part of the Afro Arts Festival on Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at the Pahokee High School Auditorium.

The committee is seeking church and community participants, (choirs, soloists, duets, quartets or groups) to participate. Anyone interested should contact Shirley Morris at 996-8435 or 996-2340 by March 15.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the McKnight Achiever Scholarship Fund and the Euphinea Morris Memorial Scholarship fund. Admission to the Gospel Explosion is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Other events include a special workshop at New Bethel AME in Clewiston on Sunday, March 15 at 11 a.m.; a street and community clean up and adopt-a-highway in Belle Glade on March 16; a health fair on Tuesday, March 17, and a prayer service March 18 at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Things culminate on Saturday, March 21 will be the parade at 10 a.m. at Lake Shore Middle and the festival at 11 a.m. at lake Shore Park.

### Applications available for Harvest Queen Pageant

The annual Harvest Queen pageant will be held on April 24, 1998 at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center in Belle

Glade. Applications are available for contestants ages 16-21 at Atlantic Pacific Insurance, 204 N.W. Ave. L, Belle Glade. Each contestant is required to obtain a sponsor. The sponsorship fee is \$100 and contestants must be a resident of, or attend school in Belle Glade, Pahokee or South Bay.

The pageant is co-sponsored by Palm Beach Community College and the Belle Glade Lions Club. Entry deadline is March 13. Any questions should be addressed to Becky White at 996-5800.

### Family Day at church

The pastor and members of Wesleyan Community Holiness Church invite all pastors and their congregations, families and friends to join them in celebration of their Eleventh Annual Family Day Observation on March 15 at 3 p.m. The theme is "Families Uniting for a Better Community."

### Men's Day Revelation Explosion

St. John First Missionary Baptist Church will hold the Revelation Explosion at the church, 600 S.W. Eighth Street, Belle Glade on March 22 beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School and continuing through morning worship, where the Rev. James White will preach to the theme "Christian men living for the glory of God."

The afternoon program will start at 3 p.m. and will involve speakers from across the Glades speaking on The Seven Churches from the book of Revelation.

### Citizens Observer Patrol to hold training

Training will be held on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at the PBSO satellite office, located at 316 Pope Court (Fremd Village) of the Pahokee Housing Authority for all new applicants to the C.O.P. Unit #77 (Citizens Observer Patrol). New C.O.P. trainees must attend this meeting.

Please contact Rev. Patricia S. Wallace for more details at 996-1692 before 4 p.m. or at 924-7030.

### Registration for Little League

Pahokee Little League is starting up again. Registration dates are: March 14, March 21 and March 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pahokee Fire Department. Registration fee is \$35 for the first child and \$30 for each additional child. For detailed information, call Kay Zaccagnino (pager # 936-6027) or Donna Salvatore at the Pahokee Police Department.

### Summer camp

A summer camp scholarship program is available in the Glades, but only at Pahokee Middle Senior High School. Applications are now available in the school office. The camp is limited to 100 students, ages 12-15.

For more information call Nancy Talbert Smith at 924-6400, extension 3164.

### Fundraisers for school

There will be a car wash and bake sale at Pahokee City hall and Fire station on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A spaghetti dinner, including salad and garlic bread will be offered on Thursday, March 19 in Pahokee High's cafeteria. Dinner with beverage is \$3.50 or take out without beverage is \$3. These events are sponsored by the Women's Forum members.

For more information call Nancy Talbert Smith, 924-6400, extension 3164.

### Alumni meeting

All Palm Beach County Alumni of Bethune-Cookman College are invited to a meeting on Saturday, March 21, 3 p.m. at 533 S.W. 11th St, Belle Glade.

Anyone with questions should call 996-5405.

## Glades General Hospital

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# HEALTH WATCH

## Some foods are reported to have negative calorie effect

A healthier life ...

By Katrina Elsen

What waistline-watcher hasn't dream of some kind of miracle food that the more you eat, the more weight you lose.

Dr. Neal Barnard, author of "Foods That Cause You to Lose Weight: The Negative Calorie Effect," claims these food have been with us all along.

According to his book, it takes your body more calories just to process the food than the foods contain. The act of chewing and digesting these foods burn up all the calories.

Dr. Barnard also claims that not only do these foods negate their own calories, but they also help trigger your metabolism to speed up and burn stored fat.

For best results, the food must be consumed raw, or as close to their raw state as possible. It takes more energy to chew a raw carrot than a cooked one.

The doctor warns that you should not confuse fresh fruit with fruit juice. When you eat fresh fruit, the body must chew and process a great deal of fiber. Fruit juice, on the other

hand, requires little energy for the body to process. Fruit juice is also high in natural sugar.

There's good news for Florida farmers. Oranges, tangerines, grapefruit and strawberries are all on the "negative calorie



Katrina Elsen

list."

Foods on the doctor's "negative calorie" list include the following:

- Apples
- Blueberries
- Bean sprouts
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Cherries
- Cucumber
- Eggplant
- Grapefruit

- Grapes
- Green beans
- Lettuce
- Melon
- Mushrooms
- Oranges
- Onions
- Parsnips
- Pears
- Peppers
- Pineapple
- Radishes
- Raspberries
- Spinach
- Strawberries
- Tangerines
- Tomatoes

Dr. Barnard recommends everyone eat a balanced diet, including whole grains like oatmeal, brown rice, and whole wheat pasta and breads, as well as lean meats, fish or legumes.

He suggests dieters drink at least eight glasses of water per day. (Now where have you heard that before?) He also warns that anyone planning to start a new diet should first check with their own doctor.

Katrina Elsen is a Special Assignment Editor for the Okeechobee News.

## How to prevent Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

by Karen Jacobs, EdD, OTR/L

(NAPS)—Here's some encouraging news: there are ways you may be able to help prevent repetitive motion injuries to your hands, wrists and fingers while on the job.

The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., offers the following advice:

Check your position. Keep shoulders erect, but relaxed, while sitting, place work close to you where it is easily accessible. Most work should be performed with elbows close to the body. Elbows should be bent to a 90 degree angle while working at your desk. Wrists should be only slightly bent, as they would look when you are holding a pencil.

If you use the telephone, a lot, you may want to get a headset or speaker phone. Try not to cradle the telephone between your head



Some ways you may be able to help prevent repetitive motion injuries is by keeping shoulders erect, but relaxed, and taking 10 minute breaks every hour.

and shoulder.

Check your equipment. The computer monitor should be placed about 26 inches from your eyes with the top of the screen at eye level.

You may be able to prevent shoulder, neck, and elbow problems by lowering the keyboard so its lowest point is positioned about an inch above your legs.

Give your body a break. Take a 10 minute break for every hour you spend at a

computer terminal.

One of the better known workplace injuries is carpal tunnel syndrome. It affects the hands, wrists and fingers. It is most often seen in keyboard operators and assembly line workers.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of carpal tunnel—such as numbness, weakness, pain and difficulty in moving your hands, wrists and fingers—you may want to see your doctor.

For more information about repetitive motion injuries, call The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., toll-free at 1-800-668-9255. Or you can visit [www.ota.org](http://www.ota.org) on the Internet.

Dr. Jacobs is a faculty member at Boston University and currently president-elect of The American Occupational Therapy Association.

## Osteoporosis

(NAPS)—From the time we're born to about our mid-thirties, bones actively process minerals in food to replace old bone cells with new. As we age, this process slows and it becomes harder for bones to repair themselves and grow. Bones lose calcium and become brittle and less dense. This is what we mean by low bone density.

The most common complication associated with low bone density is osteoporosis, literally "porous bones." Although both men and women after age 70 are at risk for osteoporosis, it is of particular concern for women after menopause because of the drop in levels of estrogen, which helps protect bones.

Osteoporosis usually progresses without apparent symptoms until a bone fractures or breaks. Weak bones can break even from everyday stresses such as walking or lifting. This often occurs in the hip or spine and may be accompanied by severe or persistent backache.

There are steps you can take to prevent osteoporosis, but once the symptoms appear, it can be slowed but not cured. Getting adequate calcium from your diet or from supplements can help protect your bones. Gentle exercise such as walking and getting enough vitamin D in your diet also contribute.

**Review Times For New Medicines Cut In Half**

(NAPS)—The reformed new drug approval process is good news for consumers, physicians, and drug manufacturers. And now, there's more good news for the Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA's Reform of the U.S. Drug Approval Process was selected as a "Top Ten" innovation in American Government for 1997. The FDA will receive a \$100,000 grant from the Ford Foundation for its program that gets new medicine more quickly to the people who need it, while maintaining a rigorous safety standard for new drugs.

"This program is literally saving lives," said David Gergen, editor at large of U.S. News & World Report and chairman of the national selection committee. Indeed, the new fast-track approval process is being credited as a key factor in the nearly 20 percent decline in AIDS-related deaths in the last year.

Previously, drugs were held off the market until tests determined whether they cured a disease. Since the FDA reforms were put into place, some drugs are introduced to the market sooner. Breakthrough drugs for serious diseases such as AIDS and cancer are given the highest priority, and are now introduced to the public at an earlier level of testing.

to bone health. Smoking and excessive alcohol are factors that may result in bone thinning and osteoporosis.

### Signs And Symptoms Of Osteoporosis

- Broken or fractured bones, particularly in the hip, ribs, spine or wrist
- Rounded shoulders and a stooped posture, most often after age 70
- Severe, persistent backache

### KEEPING BONES STRONG

- Regular, low-impact exercise, such as walking, especially for women after menopause, helps keep you fit.
- Eat foods rich in calcium, such as milk products, leafy green vegetables and almonds. Talk to your pharmacist about supplements.
- Get enough vitamin D—it increases the body's calcium absorption—by getting out in the sun and drinking enough milk, both sources of vitamin D.
- Ask your pharmacist and doctor about bone density tests—if appropriate, they can assess the seriousness of bone loss.

There are new prescription medicines available to treat and prevent osteoporosis. Also, talk to your pharmacist or physician about bone-density testing and natural or supple-



Gary W. Kadlec, President, APHA

mental sources of vitamin D and calcium. Over-the-counter supplements vary and your pharmacist can help you choose the one that is right for you.

"The Pharmacist Minute" is a national radio program produced by the American Pharmaceutical Association (APHA), the national professional society of pharmacists, with an educational grant from Pepsico ACO Acid Controller™, the nation's number one selling acid reducer. So talk to your pharmacist...they will help your medicines help you.

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# OPINION PAGE

## Letter to the editor



Feel strongly about local issues?

**THE SUN  
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996-6636**

To voice your opinion on any subject, call *Speak Out* at 996-6636, 24 hours a day. Readers can use this special number to pose questions, voice complaints, express opinions or put somebody on the back. Unlike letters to the editor, *Speak Out* is designed for anonymous expression of opinions. We edit calls for clarity, brevity, relevance and fairness.

### Gas prices

In reply to the recent news story in *The Sun* as to why gas prices are so high in the Glades, I think it's the same old story.

The reason the Hess station on SR 80 is so busy is probably because 50% of the people in the Glades go there to buy their gas because their prices are lower. That was the consensus I got from talking to other people.

As one who works frequently on the east coast I see gas stations selling gas for \$1.04.9 a gallon, and they're no busier than gas stations here in the Glades. As long as the merchants here in the Glades feel they should charge more because they sell less, they will continue to send shopping dollars to the east coast or west coast where merchants appreciate your shopping dollar by giving you a good deal.

Wake up, Glades. Charge less. Sell more. Make more.

Thank you."

### What's the delay on traffic light?

"I'm calling in reference to the traffic light they have been trying to put up there at the Winn Dixie shopping center intersection. I'm wondering when they are going to complete this because there was just another accident there a couple of days ago.

That light should have already been put up. I'm just a concerned citizen here in Belle Glade and I'm just wondering why there's such a big delay in putting the traffic light up.

Thank you again."

Director of Public Services Gene Simmons responds: "The city has completed their portion of the project. We are now waiting for Hypower Corporation, who is contracted through the Florida Department of Transportation to install signalization. Hopefully, it will be

See *Speak Out*, Page 5

## March is Red Cross Month

By Scottie Smith  
Director West County Service Center

Did you know, the Palm Beach County Chapter of the American Red Cross has been serving the community for 81 years? Don't worry, most people do not realize that. For that matter, most people are not sure exactly what the Palm Beach County Red Cross does, outside of responding to hurricanes. In recognition of National Red Cross Month, here are some interesting facts about our Red Cross.

All programs of the American Red Cross are based on the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality, Universality, Unity, Voluntary Service, and Independence. This organization is led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter to provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and help respond to emergencies. The Red Cross is mandated by Congress, but funding to provide relief is not provided by the government. Financial and volunteer support is generously provided by people in local communities.



Scottie Smith

Besides response to hurricanes, the Palm Beach County Chapter, Western Palm Beach County and Hendry County Service Centers, provides other important services for the communities. Our Disaster Action Team is on call, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, ready to respond to any disaster, including fires, tornadoes, flooding, chemical spills, and transportation accidents. This Disaster Action Team (DAT) consists of local volunteers.

During times of emergency, the Red Cross is the vital link between military personnel and their families. Volunteers are also called upon 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to communicate messages

between service men and women and their families.

Thousands of residents have been trained in CPR, First Aid, swimming, water safety, life-guarding, and HIV/AIDS prevention. Numerous lives have been saved through these Health & Safety programs.

The Palm Beach County Chapter's Youth Program was awarded the highest American Red Cross honor, the George M. Elsey Award. This award recognized our chapter for its peer education program in HIV/AIDS Prevention. Youth make up 30% of our chapter's volunteers. The peer education program reached more than 35,000 youth during the last school year.

The Palm Beach County Chapter serves all of Palm Beach County and Hendry County. We have offices in central, north, south and western Palm Beach County, and one in LaBelle and Clewiston. If you are interested in learning more about the Red Cross or you would like to make a contribution of time or money, please call me at any one of the offices in Belle Glade, Clewiston, or LaBelle, or call 1-800-833-0599.

### Dear Editor:

The Chairman of Everglades Memorial Hospital, Inc. has issued a statement to employees at the hospital. (Ed. note: See statement below.)

While the statement was self-serving, it does express concerns shared by many people regarding the future of the hospital.

The facts: The Palm Beach County Health Care District has proposed a settlement agreement, which provides for the orderly transfer of control of the hospital to the Health Care District. The board of the hospital has said no to the proposal and in turn has threatened to walk away from its responsibilities. The agreement is still available to the hospital. If approved by the hospital board, financial assistance to the hospital could be provided immediately. Rather than

an ending, this could be the beginning of a long and beneficial relationship.

If the residents of Pahokee and the surrounding area are concerned about the future of health care, they should let the administration of Everglades Regional Medical Center know how they feel. The residents of Pahokee and surrounding area are a silent majority that has not been heard.

We hope that there is still time to resolve the future of Everglades Regional Medical Center. However, that future resides with its board.

Sincerely,

W. Cecil Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer  
Palm Beach County Health Care District.

## Everglades Regional Medical Center chairman gives message to employees

To the employees of Everglades Regional Medical Center:

For many years, it has been our obligation, and our pleasure, to provide the leadership for this hospital. All of us who have volunteered to serve in this capacity have done so only in the interest of protecting and perpetuating this wonderful community asset.

Our decisions have not always suited some who do not live here or are not familiar with our area. Nevertheless, we have held to the belief that Everglades Regional Medical Center has a right to be here; that the people of this area have a right to the healthcare security that only a full-service acute care hospital like this one can provide; and that all of us in the Northwest region have a right to quality health care, regardless of our personal financial circumstances.

Through your efforts and the efforts of many who have come before you, thousands of our neighbors have taken their first breath of life in this facility. Sadly, many others have concluded their lives here, but a least they did so with the comfort that their families, friends, and loved ones were close by. Your efforts, and skills, have saved many, many lives. For some who have been saved there, travel to other hospitals miles away would have meant the difference between life and death. Many in this community have recovered to continue their lives in the enjoyment of their families and their neighbors, and to continue to contribute to the betterment of this community because this hospital has stood like a silent beacon offering hope and health to those who need it. It has been our obligation and our responsibility to welcome all in need, regardless of race, creed, national origin, place of residence, or financial condition.

We are proud of each of you, and for the role you played in ensuring health care for the citizens of our area. We point with great pride to the many accomplishments of our hospital and to its unblemished history of more than six decades of community service.

Recently, though the efforts of everyone here today, we showed remarkable improvement - a 20 percent improvement - in the quality of service delivered by this hospital as judged by a panel of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and Health Care Organizations. Everyone here participated in that inspection in January of this year. Each one of you contributed to the success, no matter what your job description or station. We are all proud and grateful for that very significant accomplishment.

Last year, through your efforts, we were able to manage a financial surplus for the very first time in the hospital's history. Modest though it was, it was a surplus. We wish that financial conditions allowed that fine accomplishment to be continued.

We're proud of the fact that our hospital ranks first in charity care performance among the rural hospitals in Florida.

Building expansions over the past 15 years have enabled us to attract new physicians and provide new medical services. These services have saved countless lives and improved the quality of life for many of our clients. The lives of countless premature and problem birth babies were saved as the result of our having brought the first neonatologist to our staff. We brought an innovative heart center to our hospital that enabled local residents to receive sophisticated state-of-the-art heart and circulatory diagnosis without having to travel to the

coast. These and many other changes are major health care accomplishments that have merit and are worthy of respect. These are accomplishments which save people's lives. These are accomplishments that have made a difference.

The accomplishments, reached through your hard work and dedication, make what I have to share with you today even more difficult.

Your board of directors has come to a juncture in the history of this hospital when our hospital must once again change. While it is not welcomed, it is a change nevertheless.

The board has come to the difficult decision that the best service we can render to our community's health and welfare is to turn the hospital over to the Palm Beach County Health Care Special Taxing District.

We have been embroiled in a controversial argument over our right to keep our local hospital under local control for eight years.

We were not defeated legally or politically, but financially. The economics of a small, rural hospital demand that we accept changes in health care. These changes will impact not only ourselves but virtually every small, independent rural hospital in this nation, no matter how unwelcomed they are to the hospitals, the people who need the hospitals, and the towns and communities that have the hospitals. I am reminded of the sad state of affairs at Destin, Florida. While economics were blamed for the closure of a small, local hospital, deaths occurred as a direct result of the closure. We don't want that to happen here.

Our first and foremost obligation is to provide the people of the northwestern part of Palm Beach County with quality health care.

We are also obligated to provide institutional and employee stability to maintain the quality of health care the public deserves regardless of financial circumstances. That has been the case at this hospital since it was entrusted to our stewardship.

Financial conditions which are beyond our control make it impossible for us to continue to achieve these obligations alone. Therefore, the board has reluctantly come to this decision in the public interest.

This hospital was founded in 1936. One of its founding principles was that a local tax subsidy would be necessary for the hospital to maintain a satisfactory quality of medical care, and provide for the health and welfare of all of the citizens we serve. That principal has not changed.

We believe the public's interest is best served by our stepping aside now in order to allow the countywide health care district to take over the operations of the hospital. The district has over \$82 million in surplus tax dollars at its disposal. It is the best opportunity the citizens of northwestern Palm Beach County have to continue the local hospital care necessary for the communities to thrive.

Everglades Regional is one of the state's 27 Statutory Rural Hospitals. Legislative attention has been focused on the survival of these hospitals in the governor's landmark Health Care and Insurance Reform Act of 1993. Consequently, we have notified the governor and appropriate state agencies of our intention.

Today, we challenge the citizens of Pahokee and our area to unite behind this hospital. It has a right to be here. The people of this community have the right to expect it to remain open. Our people have the right to expect it to continue to provide for their health security just as it has

See *Everglades Regional*, Page 5

## About letters

To voice your opinion about Glade's issues, or to respond favorably or unfavorably to articles printed in the paper, we encourage you to write us a letter. Send to:

THE SUN

417 N.W. 16th Street #6, Belle Glade, FL 33430

## THE SUN

417 N.W. 16th Street • Suite 6  
Belle Glade, FL 33430 • (561) 996-4404  
Fax Number (561) 996-2209

### A PLEDGE TO OUR READERS

We pledge...

- ✓ To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
- ✓ To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- ✓ To provide the information citizens need to make their own decisions about public issues.
- ✓ To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- ✓ To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- ✓ To correct our errors, and to give each correction the space it deserves.
- ✓ To provide a right to reply to those about whom we write.
- ✓ To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE** - All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**ERRORS** - The liability of the publisher on account of errors or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion.





## "I Love Pahokee" Day is March 28

By Shirley Jarriel  
Main Street Coordinator

Once again it's time for a celebration of the beautiful town on the lake - "I Love Pahokee" day is scheduled for March 28 on the lakefront from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a "Low Country Boil" and fish fry. Sponsored annually by the Pahokee Chamber of Commerce, this event last year became a joint effort with the newly designated Pahokee Main Street partnering with the chamber to set aside this day for residents to take pride in their community. March 28 is also the date for "Take Pride in Lake Okechobee" and residents are encouraged to clean up around their homes, businesses, and the lakefront.

Special entertainment is also being planned for your enjoyment. We are so excited that Liz Hernandez has agreed to arrange our entertain-

## Everglades Regional...Continued from Page 4

for more than 60 years. This hospital was built and paid for by the taxes of generations of local people who sacrificed a portion of their wealth to ensure quality health care was available for themselves, their families, their neighbors, and countless people they never knew. Today's generation, and those generations that follow, should not be denied the benefits of that investment. Today's government has the obligation to honor the public effort and the public assets of generations past. That is one of the strengths of our democracy.

The people of Pahokee and northwestern Palm Beach County have a right to quality local health care the same as the people of West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Miami, or anywhere else in the State of Florida. It is the policy of this state; it is common sense, and it is common decency.

I want to express my personal appreciation and that of the board for your years of dedicated

ment this year. We call it 'A Taste of the Glades' and it's a great time of fun for everyone. For those who are not familiar with a 'Low Country Boil', it includes shrimp, corn, sausage, potatoes, carrots, onions and seasoning boiled together for a deliciously unusual treat. Bring your whole family down to the lakefront and enjoy the beautiful view while you're savoring a real Pahokee experience.

"Volunteers are needed to assure a successful day. Let us know right away that you would like to enjoy this day in a different way by helping us make it special," said Alice Thompson, chamber executive director.

Tickets are \$10 for the Low Country Boil and \$6 for the fish fry and may be obtained from the chamber or any chamber board member. Call 924-5579 or fax your request for tickets to 924-

service. We step aside for the sake of change and with the change will come, we hope, a new sense of harmony and economic security for the hospital.

But as we step aside, we do so confident that the will of the people will prevail.

We are confident that this great institution will survive to continue to provide local health care not only for this generation of Glades people, but for many generations to come.

May God bless each of you. May God bless this fine institution and all that it stands for, and may God bless those upon whom the responsibility for this institutions' well-being will rest. Most especially, may God bless and comfort all who enter these doors in their time of need.

Thank you.

Edwin A. Jones  
Chairman of the Board

## Belle Glade Police Dept. arrest blotter

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 739 complaints, worked 18 crime scenes and gave 26 traffic citations the week of March 2-8. Those arrested included:

**March 2 - Leonard Bradley**, 18, two counts of burglary; **Juvenile**, 14, petty theft; **Michael Stewart**, 24, retail theft; **Wesley Coleman**, 40, loitering and prowling.

**March 3 - Floyd Stewart**, 45, domestic battery; **Juvenile**, 17, battery; **Juvenile**, 16, retail theft

**March 4 - William McClarin**, 35, possession of cocaine and possession of narcotic paraphernalia; **Courtney Cross**, 21, stalking.

**March 5 - Kenny Sistrunk**, 35, domestic battery; **Juvenile**, 16, battery.

## Pahokee Police Dept. arrest blotter

The Pahokee Police Department made 11 arrests the week of March 2-8. Those arrested included:

**March 2 - Kenneth A. Murphy**, 31, warrant for driving while license suspended.

**March 3 - James E. Jones**, 36, felony retail theft and resisting arrest with violence;

## South Bay Police Dept. arrest blotter

The South Bay Police Department made five arrests, gave 90 citations, five written warnings, handled 11 offenses, two incidents, 67 misc. incidents and four accidents the week of March 1-7. Those arrested included:

**March 1 - Jon Myhre**, 55, possession of drug paraphernalia.

**March 2 - James McCrae**, 33, warrant arrest.

**March 3 - Antwon Lamar Perry**, 22, failure to comply; **Samuel Terrelle McKenzie**, 28, aggravated battery.

**March 4 - No arrests made.**

**March 6 - Clarence Coney**, 42, loitering and prowling; **Juvenile**, 17, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; **Ronnie Booth**, 20, domestic battery; **Claymore Fields**, 28, possession of marijuana with intent to sell; **John Morris**, 38, failure to appear; **Antonio Estrada**, 21, stalking.

**March 7 - Frances Sager**, 22, domestic battery; **Lawrence Minus**, 19, contempt of court and domestic battery on a pregnant female; **Rupert Crawford**, 54, failure to appear; **Herman Fordham**, 40, violation of probation; **Julio Machado**, 26, carrying a concealed firearm; **Maquell Davis**, 21, failure to appear; **J. Polk**, 23, contempt of court; **Fayview Johnson**, 28, contempt of court; **Nathaniel McGowan**, 56, contempt of court and carrying a concealed

**Freddie L. Washington**, 32, domestic violence; **Isaac L. Fulton**, 35, warrant for robbery.

**March 4 - Joseph M. Baker**, 32, warrant for kidnapping and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

**March 5 - Javier Mojica**, 18, domestic battery and criminal

**March 5 - Cravelyn T. Hooker**, 27, domestic battery; **April Hester**, 23, obstruction by disguise; **Juvenile**, 14, domestic assault.

**March 6 - No arrests made.**

**March 8 - David Fritz**, 33, failure to appear; **Fredeka McGriff**, 18, two counts of grand theft and two counts of burglary of a school; **Juvenile**, 16, two counts of grand theft and two counts of burglary of a school; **Roosevelt Campbell**, 21, two counts of grand theft and two counts of burglary of a school; **Leshawanda Donaldson**, 19, two counts of grand theft and two counts of burglary of a school.

The police news in this newspaper lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated.

Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

**mischievous, Charlie McKelton**, 40, possession of an open alcoholic beverage.

**March 6 - Robert E. Starks**, 35, warrant for simple battery.

**March 7 - Pablo K. Pitre III**, 20, domestic battery; **James J. Jones**, 18, felony-battery.

**March 8 - Maiochial Steele**, 22, simple battery.

**March 7 - James Lent Graham**, 43, violation of probation on charges of domestic battery; **Eddie A. Powell**, 30, obstruction by disguise.

## Speak Out...continued from Page 4

finished in 30 days."

### Nepotism in South Bay?

"I was reading in the newspaper where South Bay has a feud going in the police department. I didn't think kinfolks could work for one another in a police department, or in the city.

Maybe I'm wrong, but I didn't think kinfolks could work kinfolks."

\*\*\*  
**Editor's note: Dr. Effie Grear, principal at Glades Central Community High School, responds to recent Speak Out calls about the school.**

"It's so wonderful to find several patrons inquiring about various things at Glades Central. This involvement could lead to us finally getting interested parents together for a group that will work with us to improve our school.

There can be all kinds of misunderstanding if no one takes time to ask questions instead of passing on misinformation. Any grading done at Glades Central is coordinated through the Palm Beach County School District offices. Our data processor has to pick up the District office to drive up our report cards each time they are printed. Therefore, all

grading is in keeping with timelines established by the District.

I believe the misunderstanding has developed over our recent ability to provide grades for our students on a more regular basis to give them (the students) an additional way to improve their grade point average by the end of a block schedule semester.

Glades Central and Boca High School are on what is called four by four block scheduling. This means that students have four semester classes every nine week period. Since there are four nine weeks in a school year, each nine weeks in a block is the same as a semester.

Students remain in each class for 90 minutes per day instead of 50 minutes per day. They are, therefore, able to complete one-half unit of work every nine weeks. By the end of two nine weeks, they earn four credits. In block scheduling one nine-week period is the equivalent of one semester.

With the system of grading available to us prior to January of this year, students were given teacher issued grades at the end of four and one-half (4.5) weeks. At the end of the next four and one-half weeks, the grade for that quarter was doubled. Doubling

the final quarter grade in the semester placed more value on that grade, rather than placing equal value on each quarter grade.

With the new program, we can give the student a grade for work earned halfway through the nine weeks. This gives the student two equal grades, plus an exam grade to average out for their semester grade.

Another parent meeting will be forthcoming in April, and I invite all parents to be present and let us answer any questions about grading or anything pertaining to our programs.

We want your children to succeed, but we cannot do anything which contradicts the way the School District sets up programs. I'm sure our teachers would rather provide grades once every nine weeks, but giving students two opportunities to improve their grades in one block semester can help them obtain a better picture of their actual average at the end of the grading period.

Thanks for the concerns of any and all of our patrons. Please visit with us and give us some of your free time and become a volunteer. We'd be happy to have you."

## Crimestoppers

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc., is asking citizens to help locate **Roosevelt Peter Robinson**, who is wanted for burglary of a dwelling and grand theft. He is also wanted for failure to appear on charges of driving while his license was suspended, cancelled or revoked. He is a black male, 5' 9", weighing 170 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and a scar on his right arm. His date of birth is September 28, 1962 and his

Social Security Number is 234-52-4132. His last known address was 601 SW 4th Street, Belle Glade. His last occupation was working for the school board. His warrant was active as of March 3, 1998.

If you know the whereabouts of **Robinson**, or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.



Roosevelt Peter Robinson

## DOLLY HAND CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

"Fabulous" Glades Campus of Palm Beach Community College  
**FIFTEEN AND FABULOUS**

## RIVER CITY BRASS BAND

Tuesday, March 17, 1998  
at 7:30 p.m.  
\$18 Adults - \$5 Children

Often called the "Boston Pops in Brass," the River City Brass Band, under the direction of Denis Colwell, projects a sound so rousing and compelling the audience can't refrain from tapping their toes and singing along. Don't forget your GREEN!

## Coming Up in April

- \* The Stetson University Jazz Ensemble - April 3
- \* An Evening with Dan Seals - April 17

## FOR TICKETS: CALL 561-992-6160

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## Students come back as winners

Students from Pahokee Elementary School, Gove Elementary School and Pioneer Park Elementary School came home winners. They participated in the Track and Field Events at the Special Olympics Competition, Saturday, February 28 in Lantana, FL.

The following students placed first in the Soft Ball Throw event: Jamera Lane, Timothy Burton, Shanekia Thompson, Shamera Inman, Marie Manuel, Howard Graham, Jr.

Second place winners were: Eric Williams, Roan Newhart, Jarvorris Lee.

Third place winner was Hugh McKenzie.

John Marshall and Willie Carswell came in fourth place and Jarvis Johnson placed fifth.

The following students placed first in the 50 Meter Dash: Hugh McKenzie, Roan



Newhart, Jarvorris Lee, Howard Graham and Marie Manuel.

Second place winner was

Eric Williams and Jarvis Johnson and John Marshall came in third.

Adults accompanying the

students were: Lenora Harris, Donna Ott, Mary Davis, Anthony Frost, Sheremeka Harris and Gail Perry.

## Everglades Regional Medical Center Birth announcements

### January

01-Mr. Christian L. Selph and Ms. April R. Reinhard, Okeechobee, son, Tyler Lee, 7lb 3 3/4 oz.

01-Mr. Ignacio Nava, Sr. & Ms. Lilia Pacheco, Pahokee, son, Ignacio Jr., 7lbs.

01-Mr. David L. Cronley, Jr. & Ms. Rashena S. Williams, Pahokee, daughter, Dajanique Rashanae, 8lb 3oz.

01-Mr. Lawrence R. Roker & Ms. Charlotte E. Crayton, Belle Glade, daughter, Lawrence R. LeYonna, 6lb 13 1/4oz.

01-Mr. Michael T. Teton & Ms. Yolanda D. Grillo, Clewiston, daughter, Courtney Elizabeth, 7lb 15 1/2oz.

04-Mr. Anthony R. Bowie & Ms. Latonya D. Smith, Belle Glade, daughter, Antiana Raykiana, 6lb 14oz.

06-Mr. Margarito Martinez & Ms. Cruz Isabel Garza, Clewiston, daughter, Savannah Marie, 8lb 6oz.

06-Mr. Steve L. Barrett & Ms. Denise M. Schoburg, Belle Glade, daughter, Ashley LeNice, 6lb 12 oz.

07-Ms. Tusha M. Jacobs, Okeechobee, daughter, Elaine Sargene Lynn, 7lb 6 1/4oz.

09-Mr. Juan Mata & Ms. Rosalba Contreras, Pahokee, son, Marc Anthony, 6lb 13 1/4oz.

12-Mr. & Mrs. Dewey J. Hendrix, Jr., (Tameka R. Scott), Belle Glade, daughter, Alexis Lakeshya, 6lb 10z.

13-Mr. Thomas J. Lane, Jr. & Ms. Tyeconia D. Boldin, Belle Glade, son, Tomas Jarmal 6lb 13oz.

14-Mr. Henry L. Parker & Ms. Acquanita L. Steel, Pahokee, daughter, Hentahza Beverly, 6lb 12oz.

16-Ms. Maria Torres, Clewiston, daughter, Iana Diani, 5lb 12oz.

18-Mr. & Mrs. Jesus Lerna (Yanjira Gracia), Belle Glade, daughter, Amber, 7lb 5oz.

20-Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Floyd (Alida M. Timmons) Okeechobee, daughter, Zoe Elizabeth, 7lb 8 1/2oz.

21-Mr. & Mrs. Bradley S. Herbst (Jennifer L. Prevatt), Okeechobee, son, Brett McChesney, 6lb 9 1/2oz.

22-Mr. Christopher O. Wilson & Ms. Atari S. Smith, Pahokee, daughter, Christionnia Renee, 3lb 14 1/4oz.

23-Mr. Jose A. Pantaja & Ms. Pamela M. Lucey, Canal Point, daughter, Antonia Maria Del Carmen, 9lb 3 3/4oz.

23-Mr. & Mrs. Jose S. Mercado (Rosalia Garcia), Belle Glade, son, Angel, 7lb 14oz.

23-Mr. & Mrs. Santos S. Palacios (Olga Consuelo), Belle Glade, son, Jonathan Santos, 7lb 4 1/2oz.

24-Mr. Jaime Morales & Ms. Carolina Bautista, Clewiston, daughter, Bianca, 6lb 12oz.

28-Mr. Jean M. Pierre & Ms. Aysha S. Green, Belle Glade, daughter, Ja'Quarius Tatyana, 8lb 11 1/4oz.

29-Mr. & Mrs. James W. McMillan, Jr. (Tina Treadway) Belle Glade, son, Dillon Michael, 6lb 12 1/2oz.

29-Mr. & Mrs. Gonzalo Vazquez (Martha Contreras), Pahokee, daughter, Yaritza Karely, 6lb 1 1/2oz.

30-Mr. Dock Melin, Jr. & Ms. Misty L. Greene, Okeechobee, son, Kurtis Dean, 9lb 10oz.

30-Mr. & Mrs. Hector Esparsa, Jr. (Daniella D. Santoyo), Pahokee, son, Hector Samuel, 7lb 4oz.

### February

02-Ms. Angelica M. Aguirre, Pahokee, daughter, Alexia Natalia, 6lb 11 3/4 oz.

03-Mr. Jarvis Daniels and Ms. Lakesha N. Moore, Pahokee, daughter, Ja'Naya Ah'Deja, 6lb 14 1/4oz.

04-Mr. Francisco Roa & Ms. Refugia Cano, Belle Glade, daughter, Alondra Maria, 9lb 12oz.

04-Mr. & Mrs. Lazaro J. Hernandez (Alejandra Lule), Belle Glade, daughter Alondra Maria, 9lb 7oz.

05-Mr. Lavoski E. Jackson & Ms. Macon L. Hickman, Pahokee, daughter, La'Vontakia Triundra, 7lb 3 3/4 oz.

05-Mr. Telvis D. Lawler & Ms. Ronethia L. Wells, Pahokee, son, Telvis Demetrius, Jr., 6lb 9 1/4oz.

05-Mr. Zadie M. Marshall, Pahokee, daughter, Zaunah A'Shonti-Renee, 10lb 12 1/4oz.

05-Ms. Benita S. Green, Pahokee, daughter, Tyjaunque Zakeyia, 7lb 14oz.

06-Mr. Roij J. Middleton, Pahokee, daughter Jontasia Tre-Mayne, 7lb 4 1/2oz.

07-Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo Rodriguez (Isela Canales), Pahokee, son, Ricardo, Jr., 8lb.

08-Mr. Roy M. Lowe & Ms. Veronica L. Walker, Clewiston, daughter, Tristin Skye, 8lb 5oz.

09-Mr. Fidel Monjaras, Jr. & Ms. Rose M. Terrien, Fort Pierce, son, Juan Antonio, 6lb 14 1/2oz.

09-Ms. Keisha D. Hall, Belle Glade, daughter, Kiana Moriah, 7lb 4 1/2oz.

11-Mr. & Mrs. Carmen W. Ronca, Sr. (Cynthia E. Hughes), Belle Glade, son, V. Anthony, 7lb 13 3/4oz.

12-Kajuanji S. Beldin & Ms. Tanitras Q. Harris, Pahokee, daughter, Kajuanjane, 7lb 2oz.

12-Mrs. Judith Yvonne Fuller, Belle Glade, son, Franklin Tyler, 7lb 7 1/4oz.

13-Mr. Jean L. Jeune & Ms. Mona Hillare, Belle Glade, daughter, Monica Louise, 6lb 4 1/4oz.

16-Mr. & Mrs. James C. Reynolds, Sr. (Karen Standage), Pahokee, son, Brian Austin, 7lb 12oz.

17-Mr. & Mrs. Gregorio Reyna (Sanjuanita Galvin), Clewiston, daughter, Crystal, 13lb 9 1/2oz.

18-Mr. & Mrs. Frederick L. Wright, Sr. (Tina M. Gauer), son, Frederick Lee, Jr. 8lb 1 1/2oz.

19-Mr. & Mrs. Pedro Andrade (Regina Granada), South Bay, son, Eduardo, 7lb 14 3/4oz.

20-Mr. & Mrs. David W. Williams, Sr. (Melissa C. Wiles), Clewiston, son, Kristopher Andrew-Wade, 8lb 11 3/4oz.

20-Mr. & Mrs. Alfredo Hernandez (Eva C. Lopez), Belle Glade, son, Alfredo, Jr., 9lb 2oz.

21-Mr. & Mrs. Demetrius Walker (Sharonita Y. Slyddell), Pahokee, son, Limetrious Alphonso, 6lb 13 3/4oz.

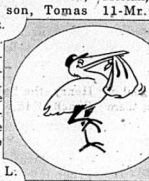
22-Mr. & Mrs. Lauro Trevino, Jr. (Julisa Martinez), daughter Raquel Jalene, 6lb 12oz.

24-Ms. Wella Tyson Cope, Okeechobee, daughter, Rashanna Francheska, 7lb 8 1/2oz.

26-Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy D. Norman (Dana D. Hunter), Okeechobee, daughter, Heather Michelle, 7lb 15 3/4oz.

26-Mr. Gregory L. Hamilton & Ms. Tamika N. Freeman, Pahokee, son, Gregory Leon, Jr., 8lb 6oz.

27-Mr. & Mrs. Johnny F. Abercrombie (Judy M. Abercrombie), Clewiston, son, Johnny Frank, Jr., 6lb 10z.



## Obituaries - Week of March 19, 1998

**John Edward "Buddy" Cochran**, age 82, of Jupiter, member of a pioneer Glades family, died Thursday, February 26, 1998, in the Jupiter Medical Center following a sudden illness.

A native of Homestead, Florida, he was born on October 8, 1915, son of the late John Edward and Mary Lydia Horne Cochran. When he was three years old his family moved to the Glades and became pioneers in an area that would become the City of Pahokee. In 1951 he returned to Homestead to make his home. In 1992, following Hurricane Andrew, he moved to Jupiter. Buddy was baptized into the First Baptist Church, Pahokee, and at the time of his death was a member of the First Baptist Church, Homestead. He was a veteran of World War II having served in both the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army. For many years he

was engaged in farming in Pahokee and later in Homestead. He later became a carpenter and for forty years was a member of Carpenters Union Local 1250. He was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the American Legion.

Surviving are his wife-Marjorie Thompson Cochran of Jupiter; sons-John William Cochran, his wife Zean, of Oklahoma City; John Edward Cochran III, and his wife Lynne, of Jupiter, Donald Kepp Cochran, and his wife Maureen, of Cape Coral; daughter-Debra Spurlock of Jupiter; sister-Becky Kepp of Canal Point; 6 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was conducted Saturday, February 28 in the chapel of the James A. Bennett Funeral Home. The Rev. James A. Bennett, pastor, Canal Point Baptist Church, Canal

Point, officiated. Those making an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Florida Baptist Children's Home, Post Office Box 8190, Lakeland, FL 33802.

The James A. Bennett Funeral Home, Pahokee, had charge of the arrangements.

**Joseph J. "Josh" Creus**, age 87, of Belle Glade, died Wednesday, March 4, in Glades General Hospital, Belle Glade.

A native of Hilliard, Florida, he was born on April 8, 1910, son of the late David and Senie Knight. He had been a resident of the Glades since 1933. He was a former employee of the U.S. Sugar Corporation and also worked in the construction of the Hoover Dike with the Arundel Corporation. From 1940, until his retirement in 1972, he was a tugboat captain on the East Coast of

the United States and in South America. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Lonnie Crews.

Surviving are: his wife of 59 years the former Virginia Unwin; son and daughter-in-law - Eddie and Doris Crews of Meridian, Mississippi; sister-Eppie Williams of Berlin, Ga.; grandchildren-Scott Crews and Tracy Crews both of Meridian, Mississippi; six great grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews also survive.

The funeral service was conducted Saturday, March 7 in the chapel of the James A. Bennett Funeral Home. The Rev. James A. Bennett, pastor, Canal Point Baptist Church, Canal Point, officiated. Interment followed in Port Mayaca Memorial Garden.

The James A. Bennett funeral home, Pahokee, had charge of the arrangements.

## Christian Fellowship Banquet

The Church of God in Pahokee will be having a Christian Fellowship Banquet on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. The banquet will be held at the Pahokee Community Center (Old Pahokee High School cafeteria). Donations will be appreciated.

Guest speaker will be Rev. Ernest Setzler.

For more information contact Eric West or Elder Eugene Babbas at 924-5549.



## XI BETA TAU SORORITY

Xi Beta Tau Sorority of Pahokee enjoyed a social evening out on Saturday, February 28, sharing friendship, laughter and dinner at the Roadhouse Restaurant in Lake Worth.

Members and spouses present were: Jo Ann and Ken Law, Omaid and Dennis Milliron, Amy and Ken Schenck and Carlene and Bernie Walker.

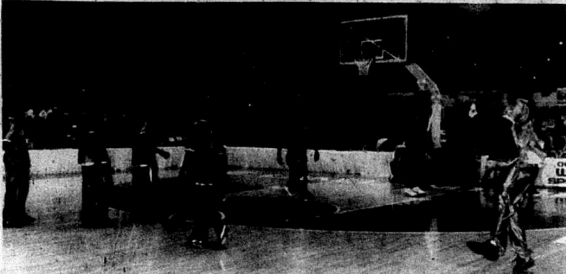
## CHURCH DIRECTORY

<b>BELLE GLADE</b> APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST 1216 W. Canal-St. South Rev. J.P. Field - Pastor 992-7676	Rev. Craig Harting GREATER ST. PAUL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST 412 E. Ave. A Elder Clarence Brown - Pastor	CANAL POINT BAPTIST CHURCH 197 1ST St. Pastor James A. Bennett	LAKEHURST BAPTIST CHURCH 3005 Racoon Point Rd. Ted Hines - Pastor
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<b>CHURCH OF THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH</b> 577 S.W. 8th St. Herbert Waters - Deacon	ST. PETERS LUTHERAN CHURCH 125 E. Canal St. Rev. Richard Arnold	CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL 1000 E. Main St.	MT. CALVARY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 160 S.W. 10th Ave. Rev. Edg. L. Miller
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## Pahokee Blue Devils come up short in quest to win state

By Jacob A. Savage  
Pahokee Express Beat  
Writer

On March 4, a fleet of vans left the campus of Pahokee High School. These vehicles were en route to Lakeland, Florida. The Lakeland Center was to be the site that would hopefully host the Pahokee Blue Devil Basketball team in winning the class 3A state championship. The team set out with extremely escalated desires of bringing home a championship trophy to their school and community. The Blue Devils had conquered many and various obstacles along a truly intricate path. Undoubtedly, the team acquired the admiration and due respect of many of its opponents and spectators who were personally graced by the presence of such a magnificent display of effort and sportsmanship. To be frank, practically no one expected this group of talented young men to reach the point that they achieved. That is no one except Head Coach Floyd Henry and the Blue Devil Basketball staff: Chris Maxon, Anthony Bryant, Gregory Hall and Michael Shreffler. Along with the "warriors" as the team referred to themselves, they set a goal of proving to everyone that there indeed was a special brew of unique and extraordinary young men in the small town of Pahokee.

Now the time had swiftly approached. It was time for the "warriors" to go into battle. As the team arrived at the Lakeland Center they appeared to be relaxed and in their normal mode of confident competitors. No one appeared to be in any sort of climatic degree of nervousness. Everyone seemed to be handling their first trip to the state championships with emotional ease. As time slowly passed, I began to see that traces of anxiety were upon the faces of some of the players. With the game now almost about to start, pre-game jitters had invaded a few of the team members. Despite this small fact, as a whole, the "warriors" strongly appeared to be an inspired squadron of soldiers ready for war.

Unfortunately, the Pahokee Blue Devil Basketball team did not prevail in their class 3A semifinal match-up. They were defeated by Tallahassee - FSU. After the final buzzer had rang, faces of sorrow, agony and disappointment draped the interior of the locker room. Just like that, the season was over. It was unreal but it was indeed a reality. One that was hard to accept. As Coach Henry, the basketball staff, Coach Eddie Lee Rhodes (administrator), and Leonard Banks (Pahokee Alumni Association) spoke to the team, they revealed that absolutely



everyone was vastly proud of the team for their efforts. They mentioned the overwhelming fact that the team never quit, even when they were down by as much as 19 points going into the 4th quarter. Instead they showed tremendous spirit and work ethic as they fought until the game was over. With the words of the coaches and others, the players began to feel much better about themselves, because they hadn't failed, but rather won a lot, including the respect of many.

The Blue Devil basketball team will be back that's for sure. With the return of all five starters and a host of reserves, the "warriors" are geared to make a run at the state championship once more. Something is missing from Pahokee Middle/Senior High School and Pahokee. The Blue Devils will continue to strive for excellence as they work even harder for the championship trophy.

## Glades Bay School Honor Roll

All A's	A's and B's	Rumfelt, Marybeth Tynik
Grade 7 - Natalie Alvarez, Ronny Brown, Sadie McKee, Seta Patel, Nicholas Sanchez	Grade 7 - Mason Alston, Gary Brooks, Megan Byrd, Seta Patel, Gamere, Blake Harrington, Brock Markham, Paul Wilson	Grade 10 - Evelyn Fabelo, Yarinne Ocasio, Joseph Piconcelli, Emily Reese, Christina Stevens, Erica Williams
Grade 8 - Matthew Sanchez, Tania Villacres	Grade 8 - Hela Barhouh, Olivia De Castro, Sally El-Daghar, Vanessa Horta, Brittanya Langenwalter, Chandra Manuel, Kerri Milita, Jeffery Rey, Lauren Sweet, Melanie Walker, Eric Wingate, Jeffrey Woodham	Grade 11 - Julie Baumgartner, Crystal Brown, Joshua Crawford, Andrew Echenique, Wesley Hawk, Jon P. Miller, Jennifer Pate, Donnie Scruggs, Jennifer Tadlock
Grade 9 - Peggy Altman, Heather York	Grade 9 - Joanna Alvarez, Jayme Arnold, Grant Beauchamp, Eric Edwards, Angela Gonzalez, Ronda Halum, Shatila Halum, Kristin Hutton, Rebecca Outz, Denise Penuel, Joanna	Grade 12 - Trey Alava, Donna Branch, Tiffany R. Carter, Lawrence Coonfar, John Courson, Ashley Cunningham, Mary-Anne Hollingsworth, Jason Holloway, Angela Miller, Maria Pozo, Kimberly Syple
Grade 10 - Kelly Alvarez, Joshua Braddock, Jonathan Lively, Nisha Madhav		
Grade 11 - Kit Hamilton, Derek Lamb, Eddie Motes, Brooke Prescott		
Grade 12 - Parker Altman, Carla Alvarez, Brianna Babruth, Michelle Herring, Kristina Perez, Kelly Vickery, Juliette Walker, Emily Watson		

## Health Survey...Continued from Page 1

the air when someone with TB of the lungs, coughs, sneezes, or laughs. People nearby may breathe in the bacteria, which can settle in the lungs and begin to grow. Later, it can affect other parts of the body.

If you think you might be infected by this disease, first you need to get a chest x-ray to get an accurate diagnosis. If you have been infected treatment will con-

sist of two different medications that are to be taken for a period of 6 to 12 months.

Participation for this survey is voluntary. However, it is important that those selected agree to participate in this survey so that it will be successful.

During the survey people will be asked a series of questions and a skin test will be administered to

check for TB and MAC, then the tests will be read within 48 to 72 hours. Blood test will be taken and tested for syphilis and the AIDS virus. Within 2 weeks all test results will be returned. All information collected during the survey will be confidential.

Those who will be randomly selected will be receiving questions within the next few weeks.

## Hospital closure...Continued from Page 1

of the disproportionate share of indigent services provided by the hospital contributed to mounting financial problems for the 63-bed acute care statutory rural hospital at Pahokee."

If the hospital closes at noon Wednesday, Mr. Bennett said patients will be transferred to Glades General Hospital in Belle Glade and possibly other hospitals in the county. The ambulance service now operated by Everglades

will be taken over temporarily by Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue. "They (the board of EMH) have in front of them the future of the hospital," said Mr. Bennett. Over 20 employees attended Tuesday night's Pahokee City Commission meeting to express their concern about the possible closure. Acting Mayor John Norman said, "I told them we are all very concerned, but we don't know what is going to happen."

## School Advisory Council meeting

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17, 5 p.m., at Belle Glade Elementary's Family Center, Room 130. The SAC will be discussing school improvement plans for 1998-99.

Please come prepared to discuss plans and give input to help make next school term even greater. We value your participation. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call us at 993-4490.

### Pahokee Main

### Street meeting

There will be an organizational meeting for a new foundation being formed by Pahokee Main Street for the purpose of obtaining funding for future projects.

This meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m., at the home of Barbara Branch, 2801 Bacon Point Road, Pahokee.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Almost one person in ten is employed in the health care service industry.

## University of Miami Baseball

# U Hurricanes

### MARCH SCHEDULE

March 1	UM vs. Univ. of Texas	1:00 p.m.
March 6, 7, 8	BellSouth/Hurricane Diamond Classic	
March 6	Furman vs. Illinois	1:00 p.m.
	Furman vs. FIU	4:30 p.m.
	UM vs. Illinois	8:00 p.m.
March 7	UM vs. Furman	1:00 p.m.
	Illinois vs. FIU	4:30 p.m.
	FIU vs. UM	8:00 p.m.
March 8	Consolation Game	10:00 a.m.
	Championship Game	1:30 p.m.
March 13	UM vs. Rutgers	7:00 p.m.
March 14	UM vs. Rutgers	7:00 p.m.
March 15	UM vs. Rutgers	1:00 p.m.
March 17	UM vs. Vermont	7:00 p.m.
March 18	UM vs. Iona	7:00 p.m.
March 20	UM vs. No. Carolina	7:00 p.m.
March 21	UM vs. No. Carolina	7:00 p.m.
March 22	UM vs. No. Carolina	1:00 p.m.
March 25	UM vs. Drexel	7:00 p.m.
	at Homestead Sports Complex	
	Tickets through ticketmaster	
March 27	UM vs. Harvard	7:00 p.m.
March 28	UM vs. Harvard	7:00 p.m.
March 29	UM vs. Harvard	1:00 p.m.

### 1982 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS 1985

All games are played at Mark Light Stadium, corner of San Amaro & Ponce on the University of Miami campus. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 16 & under.

## 1998 Winston Cup Schedule

Date:	Race/Location:	Television:	Starting time:
March 22	Transouth Financial 400, Darlington, SC	ESPN	1 p.m.
March 29	Food City 500, Bristol, TN	ESPN	1:10 p.m.
April 5	Texas 500, Fort Worth, TX	CBS	1 p.m.
April 19	Goody's Headache Powder 500, Martinsville, VA	ESPN	1 p.m.
April 26	Diehard 500, Talladega, Ala.	ABC	Noon
May 3	California 500, Fontana, CA	ESPN	11 a.m.
May 24	Coca-Cola 600, Concord, NC	TBS	6:15 p.m.
May 31	MBNA Platinum 400, Dover, Del.	TNN	12:10 p.m.
June 6	Pontiac Excitement 400, Richmond, VA	ESPN	7:40 p.m.
June 14	Miller Lite 400, Brooklyn, Mich.	CBS	1 p.m.
June 21	Pocono 500, Long Pond, PA	TNN	1 p.m.
June 28	Save Mart/Kragen 350, Sonoma, CA	ESPN	1:10 p.m.
July 4	PEPSI 400, Daytona Beach, FL	CBS	8 p.m.
July 12	Jiffy Lube 300, Loudon, NH	TNN	1 p.m.
July 26	Pennsylvania 500, Long Pond, PA	TBS	1 p.m.

## "How Can We Help?" Day is in March

Staff at the C.L. Brumback Health Center in Belle Glade are sponsoring the third, "How Can We Help Day" on Friday, March 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Belle Glade Loading Ram, between 5th and 6th Streets and Avenues C and D. The purpose of the

event is to provide area residents with information on the various services available to them and to inform them of dates and times for specialized conferences and educational opportunities.

Any agency wishing to participate should contact

Marylou Powers at 996-1600 for a registration form.



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For more information call Brenda or Stephanie at 996-4404.

## Black Gold Notes

By Dianne Carter, Jubilee Chairman

By Dianne Carter Jubilee Chairman

**Legacy of the Land**  
The Jubilee '98 booklet will illustrate the theme, *Legacy of the Land*, by honoring some very special people who have made our lives in the Glades richer by their skill, talent, expertise, character and vision.

### Celebrating three special anniversaries

Come and celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Black Gold Jubilee, the sixtieth anniversary of the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce, and the seventeenth anniversary of the City of Belle Glade!

### Sporting events

Test your skills at one or all of our athletic events. Get the

old team together and call Lifebuilders Softball Tournament Chairman Mark Allen at 924-4850. If running or walking is your forte, call Mark Sutterfield at 996-0100 for information about the 5K Walk/Run. If you feel really spunky, call Jennie Sears at 996-4404 to register your team for the one-day, double elimination volleyball tournament! Like to play golf? Try it at night! Call Mike Underwood at 996-0100 to sign up for the hilarious Night Golf Tournament.

### Black Gold Jubilee Parade

Marching bands, military units, decorated floats, pickup trucks, antique cars, little kings and queens, little princesses, Harvest Queen

and princesses, all these will be part of the fantastic Jubilee parade. Categories are: Best Organization/Group Entry; Best Business Entry; Best Performing Entry; Best Theme Entry; and Best Marching Entry. Call Debbie Buff at 996-0100 to register your entry in this year's parade.

### Contests

Belle Glade Fire Rescue will be hosting this year's annual Children's Fishing Contest. Call Fire Chief Steve Rice at 996-0100 for details.

Shutterbugs get ready! For Photography Contest details call Karen Corbin at 924-5200. Categories are: Character/People; Landscape/Still Life; and Nature (animals/birds) with a limit of two photos per category.



**HONORED BY THE URBAN LEAGUE...**Glades Central teacher Anne Haskell was recognized for her countless hours coaching young people for the annual Black History and Culture Brain Bowl competition and for helping raise more than \$250,000 in scholarships for young people in the community by the Urban League of Palm Beach County. Shown from left are Ms. Haskell with Brain Bowl team members Latoya Daniels, Jennifer Bolden, Paul Small, L'loren Dowdell, Gehad Shafara, Moiro Konchella and Brian Mincey.

## Glades Central teacher wins Urban League Award

Glades Central Community High School teacher Anne Haskell was honored by the Urban League of Palm Beach County for her countless hours working with young people in the Glades.

The league presented awards to 11 individuals and companies at their 25th annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner Benefit on March 7.

Ms. Haskell, who teaches in the Communities in Schools (CIS) program at Glades Cen-

tral, was lauded for helping to raise more than \$250,000 in scholarships for young people in the community by leading her students to championship performances in the annual Black History and Cultural Brain Bowl competition.

"She has devoted countless hours each year to coaching the young people who've helped Glades Central's team claim nine county, seven regional and two state championships," said Thyra Starr,

Urban League of Palm Beach County president and CEO.

Other honorees include Rev. Willie Scott of Jupiter; Elizabeth Wesley of Delray Beach; Leslie Corley and F. Martin Perry; Barnett Bank, a subsidiary of NationsBank, under the leadership of President and CEO Michael Strickland; Art Fleming and Emma Banks; Emil Honig; and Jermaine Jones, all from West Palm.

## Glades Girl Scouts learn history from local historians

Junior Girl Scouts gathered Feb. 23 at the Belle Glade Public Library to earn their patch "Hometown History." Sponsored by GSUSA and the History Channel, the fourth, fifth and sixth graders of Troops 98, 719, and 805 participated in gathering oral histories from

storytellers Fritz Steih Jr., Annie Pearl Smith-Hill, Quinan Shiver, Carolyn Priest, Dorothy Wilford, Vernon Dexter, Emil Wolf, Eleanor Wolf and August Kirchman.

The girls received a tour of the Lawrence Will Museum with Co-founder Dr. Joseph

Orsenigo to add personal insights. The project's goal is to learn how communities change in time. Information gathered may also be applied to the "Girl Scout Hidden Heroines," project, a part of the 85th Anniversary Celebration of Girl Scouts.

Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders than from the arguments of its opposers.

—William Penn

## African American politicians to be honored

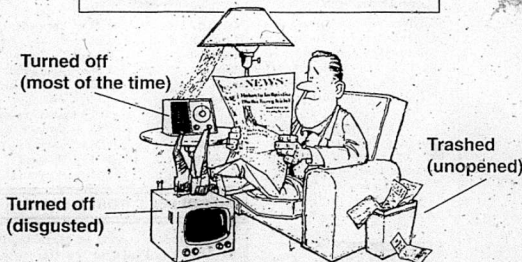
The accomplishments of past and present African American politicians in the Glades will be featured at an event March 14 at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center.

The executive board of the Glades Festival of Afro Arts and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. invite everyone to attend the event which begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and non-rents include South Bay residents: Basil Anderson, Clarence Anthony, Esther Berry, Vernita Cox, Clarissa

Davis, Dorothy Davis, Michael Jackson, Willie Marshall, and Miranda Smith. In Belle Glade, those honored will be Dan Bythwood, William Gear Harma Miller and Dorothy Walker. Pahokee honorees will be Keith Babb and Roy Singletary. Clewiston honoree will be Janet B. Taylor.

For ticket information contact Winifred Tolbert, Afro Arts Festival Director at 996-4574 or Johnnie Hankerson, president of the executive board at 996-2354.

### An Objective, Unbiased Guide to Media for Politicians and Political Consultants



	Radio	Television	Direct Mail	Newspapers
<b>COST</b> For both ad itself and production.	Cheap. Individual commercials, but have to buy dozens of them to have any effect.	Very expensive, not only for time, but also for production.	Can be cheap (postcards) but also can be costly (including postage and mailing lists).	Inexpensive, for individual ads, for campaigns and for production.
<b>REACH</b> Ability to reach large numbers of people (quantity)	Individual stations have very limited audiences. Must buy many stations for modest reach.	Masses of all media, but not necessarily good if you pay for numbers you don't need or want.	Can reach as many people as you can afford (postage and mailing lists).	Reaches largest percentage of the most desirable demographics.
<b>QUALITY</b> Ability to reach target prospects you want.	Can pinpoint audience by choice of station format as well as time of day.	Very limited ability to reach specific targets. Mostly mass with much waste.	Most targeted of all media, if you have a good, accurate mailing list.	Readers are higher educated with higher incomes and tend to be regular voters.
<b>LIFESPAN</b> How long is medium around? Can it be referred to?	Poor. Instantly perishable. Message is gone and cannot be referred to.	Poor. Instantly perishable. Message is gone and cannot be referred to.	Has potential to be saved, but usually is thrown away rather quickly.	Great. Can be read and reread and taken to polling place and they are saved and mailed.
<b>OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Non-visual</li><li>Fragmented</li><li>Intrusive</li><li>Cluttered</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fragmented</li><li>Intrusive</li><li>Cluttered</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Junk mail</li><li>Perishable</li><li>Bad image</li><li>No assist from editorial content</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Portable</li><li>Referable</li><li>Paid-for medium</li><li>Literate audience.</li></ul>

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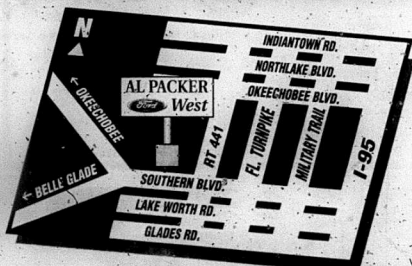
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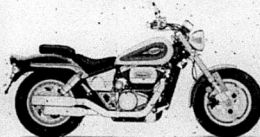


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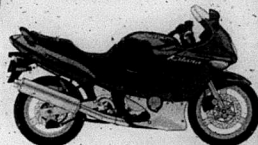
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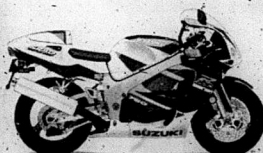
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# Gove Elementary goes bilingual...continued from Page 1

program that adapts to each child's needs.

Mrs. Pinkos said one problem faced by the school board was with attendance. Gove Elementary has a large percentage of migrant students and many of them were not starting the school year until November. Mrs. Pinkos said the school went to the employers for help.

"Farms around here have really worked with the schools," she said. They try to bring the families in at the beginning of the school year.

The most drastic change by far is the plan to make the entire school bilingual.

"We noticed a large percentage of our kids (55 percent) were Hispanic. We started looking at other schools with a similar mix," Mrs. Pinkos explained. She said some schools were teaching the students in

their native language. But that didn't seem right for Gove.

"We found a school that teaches half day in English and half day in another language in hopes of all the children becoming bilingual."

Research found when children learn another language, their general academic performance improves," she said.

"Learning another language helps the students learn to use their brains in other ways. They're able to see the patterns not only in language, but in other subjects and skills," she explained.

"Very slowly, we're implementing half day in Spanish for all the students," she said.

The teachers switch classes so only half of the teachers have to be bilingual. Like Mrs. Pinkos' other plans, this requires the teachers to work to-

gether. "Two teachers have to plan together, and coordinate so they don't teach the same things. They don't repeat the same subjects in English and Spanish. Language arts skills are taught in both languages. Other skills are taught in one or the other," she said.

"It has been really exciting. I have seen students whose first language is English who have an easier time reading in Spanish and English."

"The Spanish language is easier to read because the rules are so reliable."

"Research has shown that you only learn to read once. It doesn't matter what language you learn to read in," she continued.

"It has been interesting to see teachers discovering different ways of teaching and how chil-

dren learn," she said.

The bilingual school approach was not easy to sell to some of the parents.

Mrs. Pinkos said both the Hispanic and non-Hispanic parents had objections and concerns.

"At the beginning it was hard because people didn't understand. Some people felt we had cut the day in half, or that we were taking it from the Hispanics," she said.

"Hispanic parents were worried their children wouldn't learn English," she said. "In an English-dominant community, a child would have to be in a bubble to not learn English."

"If a child learns a concept, it doesn't matter what language they learn it in," she said.

"If you learn to ride a bicycle in the United States and you go to China, you still know how to ride a bicycle," she said. "We did a lot of talking to parents. There was a lot of debate."

She said she pointed out that

in Europe, every child learns another language. Most learn more than one. In today's global economy, American children are going to have to be able to compete with their counterparts worldwide.

In the end, the school started slowly implementing the plan. They have plans to slowly expand it.

"We have formed a partnership with the government from Spain and are working on a partnership with the Mexican government," said Mrs. Pinkos. "We hope to create some kind of teacher exchange program."

The bilingual program appears successful so far, she said.

"It makes kids feel special when they do speak another language."

In the Spanish half of the day, the Hispanic kids help the others in the English half, the non-Hispanics help the Hispanics, she said. This helps build self-esteem for both groups of students.

Gove Elementary didn't stop with Spanish.

"We hired a French teacher so children would be exposed to and know there's another language. We were amazed at how fast they picked it up with just one class a week," she said.

"We hope to add another French teacher next year," she added.

"When you're looking for ways to get the most information, learning three languages is a big advantage," said Mrs. Pinkos.

The multi-lingual school has not forgotten the basics, she added.

"Our first focus in school is to be literate in English," she said, adding that they also concentrate on teaching the children what it means to be an American.

"One job of the schools is to help children become good citizens, to learn of the history and culture of this country, to have pride in being an American," she said.

## Glades Area Public Schools Test Scores

SCHOOL	Grade	1996 CTBS Math	1996 CTBS Reading	1996 Florida Writes	1997 CTBS Math	1997 CTBS Reading	1997 Florida Writes
Rosenwald Elem.	4	34	25	1.8	29	25	2.1
Pioneer Park Elem.	4	22	22	1.8	24	25	1.9
Gove Elementary	4	33	27	2.0	48	35	2.2
Belle Glade Elem.	4	16	18	1.7	33	18	2.3
Glade View Elem.	4	27	23	1.7	19	15	1.8
Pahokee Elem.	4	38	26	1.9	48	29	2.3
K.E.C. Canal Pt. Elem.	4	19	22	1.6	60*	31	2.1
Wellington Elem.	4	89	76	3.0	86	73	3.0
District Median	4	66	53	2.4	67	52	2.5
State Median	4			2.5			2.6
National Median	4	50	50		50	50	
Lake Shore Middle	8	35	43	3.1	29	34	3.1
Pahokee Jr/Sr High	8	42	40	2.7	29	30	3.4
Wellington Landings	8	79	76	3.5	77	77	3.8
District Median	8	57	61	3.6	57	60	3.5
State Median	8			3.5			3.4
National Median	8	50	50		50	50	

NOTE: CTBS test scores are given in percentiles. This means the percentage of students at or above the test average. Scores below the 33rd percentile put a school on the state's critically low-performing schools list. The California Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) is one of the tests districts may use to measure reading and math skills. Since not all school districts in the state choose this test, state averages are not available. The Florida Writes test is a state test, so no national averages are available for this test. This test is scored on a scale of 1 to 6, with 6 being the best score possible. A school is considered "critically low" on this test if less than one-third of the students score a 3 or better. The Wellington schools are included in the chart for comparison purposes, since many professionals who work in Belle Glade commute from Wellington.

\* This score was disallowed, due to allegations of improper testing procedures.

SOURCE: Palm Beach County School District

## Brogan's list...continued from Page 1

standards low. Those on the critical list have less than one-third of the students scoring at or above the national average for the test. That means less than one-third of the students are working at grade level.

"You have to start somewhere," said Ms. Thomas. For the critical list, the state looks at six "vital signs," over a two-year testing period, for fourth, eighth and tenth grade students.

The math portion of a standardized test (Palm Beach County uses the California Test of Basic Skills, commonly called the CTBS).

The reading portion of a standardized test (Palm Beach County uses the CTBS); and, The Florida Writing Assessment Program.

The state uses a four-tier system and looks at these three test scores over a two-year time period. Three tests times two years gives them six "vital signs."

Tier 1 is labeled critically low. This designation is given to schools with all six scores below the 33rd percentile, meaning less than one-third of the students at that school scored at grade level.

Tier 2 schools had four or five scores below the cutoff.

Tier 3 schools had one, two or three scores below the cutoff. Tier 4 schools had no scores below the cutoff.

Schools at Tiers 2 or 3 are considered low-performing. Only those at Tier 1 are on the "critical" list.

The tests are given each year in February and April, so the most current test scores available are for 1997.

The national average for CTBS Reading is 50. The national average for CTBS math is 50. In 1997, the Palm Beach County School District Average for 1997 fourth graders for CTBS reading was 52 and math was 67.

The Florida Writing Assessment Program test uses a scale of 1 to 6. Each year, different writing assignments, called prompts, are used in the test. An "unscoreable" or 0 is given to any paper that just rewards the prompt, is illegible or incomprehensible or is left blank. Six is the highest score possible.

Ms. Thomas explained that for the purposes of the critical schools list, the state looks at the number of students who scored below what is considered the average for that grade. If less than one-third of the students at a school scored at grade level, then the score is

considered "critical." For example, for elementary schools, the average for grade level was a score of 3, she said. If less than one-third of the students scored a 3 or better, then that would be considered a "critical" score for the school.

For the 1997 school year, 26 percent of the students at Belle Glade Elementary scored 3 or higher on the Florida Writes test; 14 percent of the Glade View Elementary School students scored 3 or higher; 39 percent of Gove Elementary scored 3 or higher; 20 percent of the K. E. Cunningham Canal Point Elementary students scored 3 or higher; 31 percent of Pahokee Elementary students scored 3 or higher; 10 percent of Pioneer Park Elementary students scored 3 or higher; and, 27 percent of Rosenwald Elementary students scored 3 or higher.

This year, the state also added the FCAT, which tests critical thinking skills using both reading comprehension questions and math problems. While FCAT scores do not currently figure in to the "critical" schools formula, Commissioner Brogan's office has indicated plans to use it in the future when determining critical schools.



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With many years of experience in the accounting field, Richard L. Heffernan believes in providing each and every one of his services in order to fulfill the ever-changing needs of the businesses and private taxpayers. He provides just the right combination of financial services and accounting skills. His office is conveniently located in Pahokee at 2911 East Main Street, phone (561) 924-7989. Mr. Heffernan has always been dedicated to personal attention and quality standards of service.

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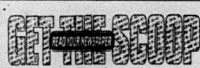
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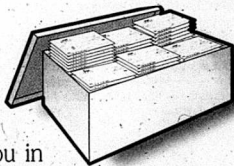
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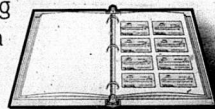


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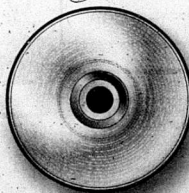
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